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29 April 1964

EO/OSA  
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**\*NRO&USAF Declassification&Release Instructions on File\***

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Status of System 12 and NRO Actions on  
SAC U-2 Aircraft

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REFERENCE A: [REDACTED] 678 dated 28 April (Attached)

25X1D

B: Memorandum from DNRO to Deputy Secretary  
of Defense dated 27 April; Subject: [REDACTED] Equipment  
for Cuban Operations [REDACTED] 22802-64)

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1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Since we met you in the Director's office yesterday noon regarding Reference B, Reference A was sent out by Colonel Geary to the SAC U-2 project officer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base with information to SAC and Lockheed. You will note that the requirement to change two aircraft in four weeks is in conflict with Dr. McMillan's statement in the recommendations in Reference B, paragraph 2, last sentence, giving 30 days as the envelope for configuring five SAC aircraft.

3. I thought you should know that when Colonel Geary and the DNRO speak about "the improved System 12", they are talking about a total of 13 existing systems in the U. S. inventory designed and modified by CIA and, that in addition to the precontemplated loan of aircraft, we will also have to deplete our stock of System 12s by a minimum of five sets out of 13 in order to help SAC meet their requirement. For your information these systems cost [REDACTED] depending on quantities ordered, and should SAC decide to equip other aircraft (20) with this device, it would take a crash program a minimum of 90 days to deliver the first such set. This last action we do not recommend because we are hopeful that tests now in progress on System 12A (range as well as azimuth presentation) will prove successful and that both SAC and ourselves could better use this device than even the approved System 12 now in inventory.

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Handle via [REDACTED]

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Control System

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4. In order to meet SAC's need, we will require a reduction in our inventory level at [REDACTED] of two sets from the present five, the removal of two from our inventory in Burbank from Lockheed, and the surrender of one such set from the inventory of three on hand with the Edwards Detachment. On this divided basis neither SAC nor ourselves will have adequate spares for any long-term period, but we are hopeful that the importance of System 12A will soon close the gap.

[REDACTED]

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)

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Attachment: [REDACTED] 678

cc: [REDACTED]


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WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB 25X1A SAC LOCKHEED  
IMMEDIATE [REDACTED] INFO IMMEDIATE [REDACTED] CITE [REDACTED] 678

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col. Giary

IDEALIST

FOR [REDACTED]

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YOU ARE DIRECTED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE , REPEAT IMMEDIATE ACTION TO  
 INSTALL SYSTEM 13 OR 15 PLUS THE IMPROVED SYSTEM 12  
 IN FIVE SAC U-2 AIRCRAFT. WORK SHOULD BE SCHEDULED TO HAVE TWO  
AIRCRAFT OPERATIONALLY READY IN FOUR WEEKS. FOUR WEEKS IS BASED  
 ON INFO THAT INSTALLATION OF SYSTEMS REQUIRES ABOUT FOURTEEN DAYS.  
 REMAINING TIME ALLOCATED FOR TEST AND NUMBER OF MISSION PROFILES  
 NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH RANGE, ALTITUDE, ETC. OTHER AIRCRAFT  
 TO BE COMPLETED ON AN ASAP BASIS. ADVISE THIS OFFICE SOONEST  
 BREAKDOWN OF DOLLAR FIGURES.  
 ANY DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO MERITS OR WISDOM OF THIS DIRECTIVE  
 SHOULD BE CARRIED ON CONCURRENT WITH THE INSTALLATION OF THE EQUIPMENT.  
PLEASE UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT INTENDED THIS EQUIPMENT BE USED ON A  
CONTINUING BASIS BUT RATHER ONLY TO SAVE A PILOT AND AIRCRAFT.  
 SHOULD THIS SITUATION ARISE, HOPEFULLY OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION  
 WILL THEN BE TAKEN.